

# Foster Parents and Caregivers

Changing Lives One Child at a Time

February 2008



## Are You Taking the Opportunity to be Heard!

### Do you know who your regional foster parent representatives are?

Are you attending the regional quarterly consultation meetings with other foster parents and CA staff?

Please take the opportunity to be heard, attend your regional meetings – your input is important! It is your time to provide input to your regional foster parent representative to present at the quarterly statewide meeting.

Contact your regional representatives for more information.

#### Regional Foster Parent Representatives

##### REGION 1

Meegan Ware	jamesandmeegan@comcast.net	(ph. 509-535-3398)
Ginger Schutt	fosmom09@comcast.net	(ph. 509-482-2033)

##### REGION 2

Mary-Jeanne Smith	smithhomes@hotmail.com	(ph. 509-240-7356)
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##### REGION 3

Kim Elke	dandkelke@yahoo.com	(ph. 360-354-8087)
Julianna Kindlund-Carpenter	juliannaymca@yahoo.com	(ph. 360-863-6530)

##### REGION 4

Ann Travis Barker	stjhon14n@aol.com	(ph. 206-898-9192)
Ruth Graham	rrg47@msn.com	(ph. 206-605-0664)

##### REGION 5

Debra Converse	president@kitsapfostercare.org	(ph. 360-692-1927)
Debra VanCleave	deborahat@aol.com	(ph. 253-473-9252)

##### REGION 6

Amy Gardner	michaelamy52@msn.com	(ph. 360-200-2102)
Marci Miess	marcimiess@hotmail.com	(ph. 360-880-5330)

## Do You Have an Emergency Preparedness Plan?

The purpose of the quarterly statewide consultation group is to improve communication between foster parents and Children's Administration centered on recruitment and retention of foster homes and effective foster parent training.

## The Next Statewide Quarterly Consultation Session is Scheduled for:

April 23, 2008

1:00 to 4:00

Casey Field Office

1123 23rd Avenue • Seattle, WA 98122

206-322-6711

## “Walk Me Home... To A Place I Belong” Event

The Foster Parent Association of Washington (FPAWS) is proud to be participating in the First Annual Nationwide 5K Walk for Foster Care, presented by the National Foster Parent Association (NFPA). During the month of May, in support of National Foster Care Month, walks will be happening in various states across the nation.

Washington has at least three walks confirmed at this time including the State walk in Olympia, along with local events in Everett, and Centralia on Saturday May 3, 2008. Additional events will be happening in Kelso and Spokane on May 31, 2008.

For more information on and/or to participate in “how to walk a child home” please contact Ramsey Graham at 253-569-1180 or [walkmehomewa@skynetbb.com](mailto:walkmehomewa@skynetbb.com) or the website at [www.walkmehome.org](http://www.walkmehome.org).

## Important Resources and Numbers

**Important numbers to know when you take care of children in out of home care.**

**Foster Parent and Caregiver Crisis and Support Line:** 1-800-301-1868.

### On-Going and Crisis Supports for foster parents

Under contracts with the state, three private agencies are working to build supports for you within the foster care community. Supports include hubs, support groups and matching new foster parents with veteran foster parents. To get connected:

- If you live in eastern Washington, the Olympic Peninsula down through Pacific County or from Thurston County to Clark County, call 1-888-794-1794.
- If you live in King County, call 206-605-0664 and in any county from Snohomish County north, call 360-510-7601 or 360-863-6530.
- If you live in Pierce or Kitsap counties, call 253-473-9252.

**Family Help Line:** 1-800-932-HOPE or [www.parenttrust.org](http://www.parenttrust.org). The Family Help Line is a free, statewide training and referral line for the families of Washington State. Last year, the Family Help Line received over 5,000 calls and requests for information. Calls can last up to 90 minutes and parents can call as often as needed.

Support for foster parents under investigation for allegations of abuse or neglect: **Foster Parent Investigation Retention Support Team (FIRST)** 1-253-219-6782. Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., or leave a message and receive a return call within 24 hours.

**Mental Health Crisis Line Information:** The crisis line telephone number for your county or region is available on the DSHS Mental Health Division website at: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/mentalhealth/crisis.shtml>.

### General foster parent information for the state of Washington

**FPAWS: Foster Parent Association of Washington State**, 1-800-391-CARE (2273) or [www.fpaws.org](http://www.fpaws.org). FPAWS is seeking new members and supporting foster parents in many ways, including referrals to local associations.

Kitsap and Pierce County information about becoming a foster parent or to receive foster parent support: **Foster Care Resource Network**, 1-253-473-9252. Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message and receive a return call by the next business day.

### NEW – Resource Available Statewide

Get connected to information on resources in your area by calling 211 – a toll free number.

### Training for foster/relative caregivers

Check out: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/training.asp>

### Children’s Administration Foster Care Listserv

Check out: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=fosterparents&&A=1>

More postings coming soon on resources, news items, trainings.